

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

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all. He works for the poor as well as for the rich. His toll is for the comfort, convenience, and progress of the entire community. He pays, in rent, taxes, and other costs of living, an infinitesimal fraction of his own earnings. The primary requisition, therefore, of his contract is the unswerving loyalty that is binding upon every citizen in every walk of life. That obligation he cannot escape; that duty he cannot cast off at will. He may organize, but the organization must be for purposes of mutual benefit, in the form of insurance or social betterment, and not for enforced negotiations with an equal party to a contract.

This inevitable condition involves no loss of self-respect or self-protection to the worker in any public service. His rights are safeguarded in two ways: by public opinion, which is inherently more generous than oppressive, and by the inalienable right of petition. The success or failure of the petition to a governmental agency must depend upon the state of public opinion, to which, under representative institutions, such an appeal is ultimately addressed. This is a situation that makes the betterment of wages and conditions in the public service virtually dependent upon merit, which is the ideal sought by the most intelligent promoters of labor organizations in private employment.

While Mr. Taft was speaking at Charlotte a cloudburst descended upon him and drenched him to the skin. We are not quite sure that we approve of these prohibition State welcomes in all their details.

Incurred Toads.

The utility of beauty, a theme for philosophers, becomes transformed into the decorative capacity of ugliness, a problem for the art of the milliner. This change has been wrought by the simple device of making toads into hats. The caprice of feminine fancy has taken no happier turn in the long history of the adornment of the crowning glory of woman. It is the arid plains of Texas, not the scented boulevards of Paris, that offer a contribution designed to relieve the anxieties of the Audubon Society, by lessening the ruthless sacrifice of the song bird upon the altar of vanity. It is a grim dweller in darkness, not a creature of light and air, of freedom and flight, that is to be impaled as an ornament.

Moreover, the process of manufacturing, if that word be applicable to a transmutation, does not carry with it the penal incident of death. It involves merely suspended animation. The horned toad, first being captured with due precaution against its venom, is chloroformed in preparation for its longer sleep. Thus even the possible objection of cruelty is obviated. Then the unconscious creature is plunged into a bath of adhesive material and incased in a coating of gold or silver. Thus incriminated with metal, the silenced object may be further adorned with jewels. Mere man is thus assured that there is to be no economy in this adornment.

Egyptologists have speculated without definite conclusion upon the possible age of a toad resurrected from broken cement in the interior of a pyramid. It is conceivable that when Macaulay's savage explores the ruins of the civilization of the twentieth century, his prodding weapon may release into awakened life a surviving fashion of a vanished age. If the creature thus roused from lethargy were endowed with memory and speech, what records of the past, both mighty and trivial, could it recount! This treasured love of its silence would be in harmony with the unlettered age of its release. Its dumb possibilities of eloquence would be as mysterious as the caprice of fashion that led to its mummified preservation. In this present day we may only hope that the tariff tinkers will not put a duty on the horned toad of Mexico.

The Versatility of Corn.

We have read with no little interest, and certainly with entire approval, the discussion recently going on between the New York Tribune, the Macon Telegraph, the Montgomery Advertiser, and other contemporaries anent the wholesomeness of johnnycake, so called. As to whether this delicious table dandy is better when concocted of white meal than when fashioned of yellow we do not care to express any opinion at all hide-bound or dogmatic. We incline, we think, to the white, but we admit the possible goodness of the yellow, nevertheless. Perhaps that is a matter largely determined by environment, it seemingly being true that the people of the Southern States prefer the white meal, whereas the people of the colder climes to the north prefer the yellow, the fine food value of johnnycake being nowhere disputed, however.

If the great American citizen would take time to consider the remarkable possibilities of corn—that genuine American product—we imagine he would give himself scant concern about the ups and downs of the flour market, anyway. It is astonishing how many different and truly nourishing dishes may be prepared for the table, it never once being necessary to go outside of cornmeal for the principal and basic ingredient. Corn has as many moods as a summer girl, and divers and variegated are its charms if properly searched out. The New Orleans Picayune several years ago, in investigating the matter of corn and its remarkable gastronomic value, prepared for its readers a suggestion of an entire meal of corn persuasion. We have fished it out from some old newspaper clippings and present it herewith as tending to prove our plea in behalf of the genuine and all-embracing virtues of this humble cereal. Here it is:

It is not improper to state, though detail is unnecessary, we think, that there may be added to this menu various exhilarating and stimulating drinks, if you

care for that sort of thing, brewed or distilled from corn, there being a particular kind of corn beer, indeed, that is not only very gratifying to the palate, but entirely and absolutely nonintoxicating! So, why should wheat fluctuations and an uncertain flour market worry us when we can have all these good things to eat and drink—if we choose—from the realm of the Corn King alone? It is a goodly plant, and it flourished in this country long before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, or even Columbus sighted San Salvador. Nothing is easier on the digestive equipment than corn foods, and nothing contains more of nourishment to the crude lach than a corn pone or corn dodger, if you prefer. Why lament the high price of wheat when maize is at our doors, ready, willing, and anxious to play such a noble and truly versatile part in our scheme of things?

After exhaustively considering the subject and spending many months in investigation, a learned scientist has reached the deliberate conclusion that "the oyster is good to eat." He might have discovered it in five minutes, and by the expenditure of 25 or 30 cents, and much easier.

If Mr. Walter Wellman fails to dash to the north pole this summer, a movement should be inaugurated to have the pole dash to Mr. Wellman next summer.

"There seems to be some question as to Capt. Hains' exact number in Sing Sing prison," says a contemporary. It is not one of those truly wonderful hypothetical questions, however.

The St. Louis Times of recent date carried a column editorial headed "The Truth." As a rule, the truth appears to require painstaking elucidation these days.

"Why not make 'Bill' an Elk?" inquires the Atlanta Journal. "Bill" is an Elk—that is to say, at least, every Elk is "Bill."

If the cost of living goes up much higher, good housewives can bring home the things from market in their pretty little chateaux purses, instead of market baskets. Would not that be perfectly lovely?

Perhaps the consumers are the gentlemen who make up that great "silent vote" we hear so much about just previous to all our national elections.

If the colored brother is not already convinced that the G. O. P. has turned its back on him hopelessly, the increased tariff tax on razors should furnish a final evidence.

We have an idea the Mad Mullah is going to get a Monday morning epistle from a certain person pretty soon if the said Mullah is not a little more particular about some things.

Having paid back some \$200,000 of the approximate \$100,000 the sugar trust is alleged to have stolen in New York alone, the trust probably sees no reason on earth why it should not have a nice new halo, or perhaps a couple of them.

"The Senate: Er—does this razor tax pull?" gibes the New York Mail. And the Senate, like the gentlemanly barber, does not ask the question until the shaving has progressed nearly to a conclusion, and it could not make any possible difference, anyway.

To those brain teasers: "What is a Democrat?" "How old is Ann?" "Why is a hen?" and so on, it seems we must now add, "Where is a consumer?"

"Aldrich wins out," "Committee amendment sustained by vote of the Senate." Every well-regulated newspaper keeps those lines standing and ready for instant use nowadays.

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A LITTLE NONSENSE.

THE ANNUAL POEM.

The time is ripe, so I suppose,
To say my annual say.
You know just how the bromide goes:
"It is not always May."

The thing is obvious and plain,
Apparent as the day,
Yet every bard sings this refrain:
"It is not always May."

Eleven other months each year
Must an engagement play,
And thus the fact seems very clear
It is not always May.

Its Source.
"The spring poet is hard to discourage."
"Rejected manuscript does not deter him, eh?"
"No; hope springs eternal from a fountain pen."

Helping Some.
"I presume you raise enough to keep all your neighbors in early vegetables?"
"Well, no. But I do manage to keep their chickens pretty well supplied."

Hard to Dodge.
Too much of fame in any shape
A bard abhors.
A famous poet can't escape
His creditors.

A Good War.
"What are you agitating about now?"
"Mother's Day. What shall we do to honor Mother's Day?"
"How would it do to pass one day without doing anything to worry her?"

Reason Enough.
"Going to umpire the picnic ball game?"
"None."
"And why not?"
"I umpired a ball game once."

Outdoor Trimmings.
"Tell me something."
"Well?"
"What's an al fresco luncheon?"
"A lunch served with caterpillars instead of flies."

"WE'LL ALL TAKE TEA."
Who Put the Kettle On—Johnny or Molly or Polly or Joshua?

From the Charlotte News and Courier.
The Charlotte Observer has slipped up again, and we are beginning to lose faith in the infallibility of its recollections. Not long ago it wrote something about a tune known as "Johnny, Put the Kettle On."

The Montgomery Advertiser immediately protested that it was "Molly, Put the Kettle On," and now comes The Washington Herald, which rarely ever makes a mistake about anything, declaring that the refrain of the song really is, "Polly, Put the Kettle On."

We think The Herald is nearer right than any of our other contemporaries upon this important point, but we are advised by a former resident of the State of Georgia, now engaged in business in the town of Charleston, that even The Herald has slipped its trolley this time, that really the words of the song run as follows:

Tell John to get the cows home
And get them in the pen,
Our cousins are a-singing,
To see us all again.
The dog is in the pen,
The turkey's on the fire,
And I guess we'll scold
Our Cousin Jedediah.

Cousin Jedediah, Obadiah,
Henehiah, Jeremiah,
And old Aunt Sapphira
Are all coming here to tea.

Jerusalem, put the kettle on,
And we'll all take tea.

We wouldn't swear to "Jerusalem," but the Georgia version of the poem, which reads really as if it might have been manufactured in the poetry works of the Charlotte Observer, has about it a swing that almost convinces us that it is neither Johnny, nor Molly, nor Polly, but Jeremiah. It looks as if the poem is not squarely on all its feet, but it is worth preserving even in this mutilated form.

Looks Good to You.
From the Buffalo News.
Gov. Johnson, of Minnesota, visited the White House last week, and rather liked it.

A Hit for Every Head.
Wielded for the Uplift.

Washington, May 22, 1909.

Two Cents.

Masterpieces of Local Art.

BY YE LUSH SCRIBE.

IN MEMORIAM.

THEY SAY—

BY YE LUSH SCRIBE.

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